

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At the beginning of the specification, please insert the following:

--This application claims priority under § 371 to PCT application PCT/JP99/05069, filed September 17, 1999, and claims priority to Japanese application no. 10-265089, filed September 18, 1998.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 5-8 without prejudice, and enter amended Claims 1, 15 and 16 as follows:

1. A method of detecting a predisposition of an individual for developing psoriasis comprising:

a) collecting a genomic DNA from a patient suspected of having psoriasis;

a) amplifying the genomic DNA using primers; and

b) determining the methylation of cytosine residues in epidermal growth factor receptor at positions 668, 671, 687, 697 of SEQ ID NO. 4;

wherein the presence of not more than one methylated cytosine is indicative of the individual to a predisposition to psoriasis.

15. A method of claim 1 wherein the genomic DNA is collected from a blood sample of a patient suspected of having psoriasis.

16. A method of claim 1 or 15 wherein the method of detecting the methylation is a method using methylation sensitive restriction enzyme, a method using chemical modification by hydrazine, permanganic acids or sodium bisulfite, an immunological method using antibodies specific to methylated DNA, affinity column method or DGGE (denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis) method.